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(71) Applicant(s)
Michael Ryder
Ryder Roofing, Plot 3, Field Lane, HEMPSTALL, Norfolk,
NR15 2QZ, United Kingdom

(72) Inventor(s)
Michael Ryder

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service
William Jones
Willow Lane House, Willow Lane, NORWICH, Norfolk,
NR2 1EU, United Kingdom

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(54) Ridge tile guide

(57) A ridge tile guide comprises a pair of mutually parallel guide rails (1, 2) linked by one or more bridging connectors (3) shaped to arch over a line of ridge tiles or hip tiles which are positioned between the guide rails (1, 2), in use, the bridging connector (3) being adjustable to adjust the width separation between the opposing guide rails to suit the required tile width.

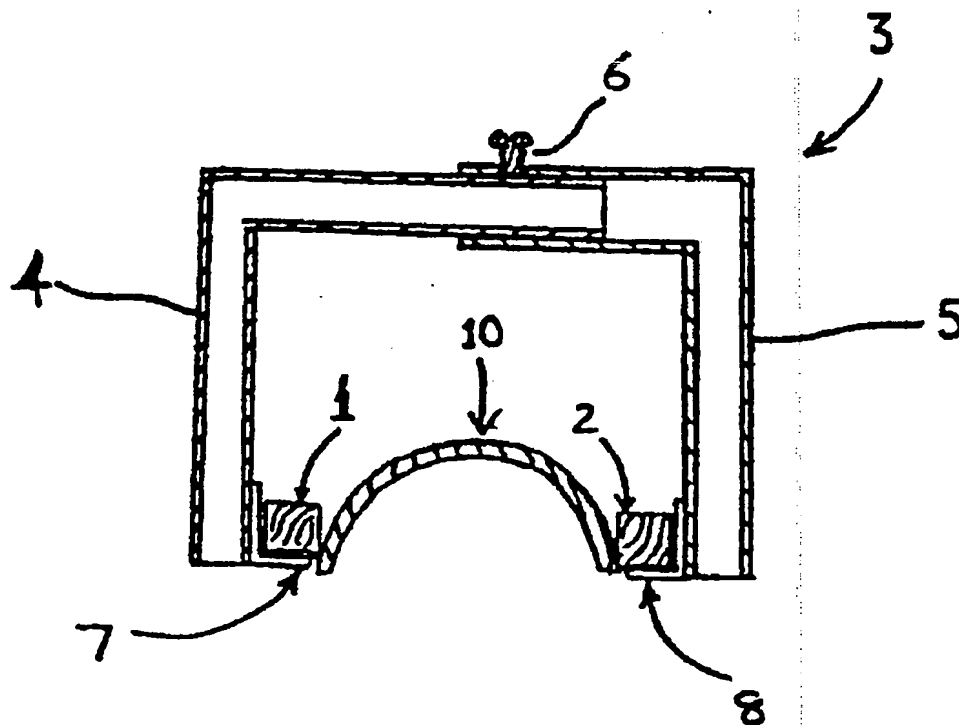


FIGURE 2

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

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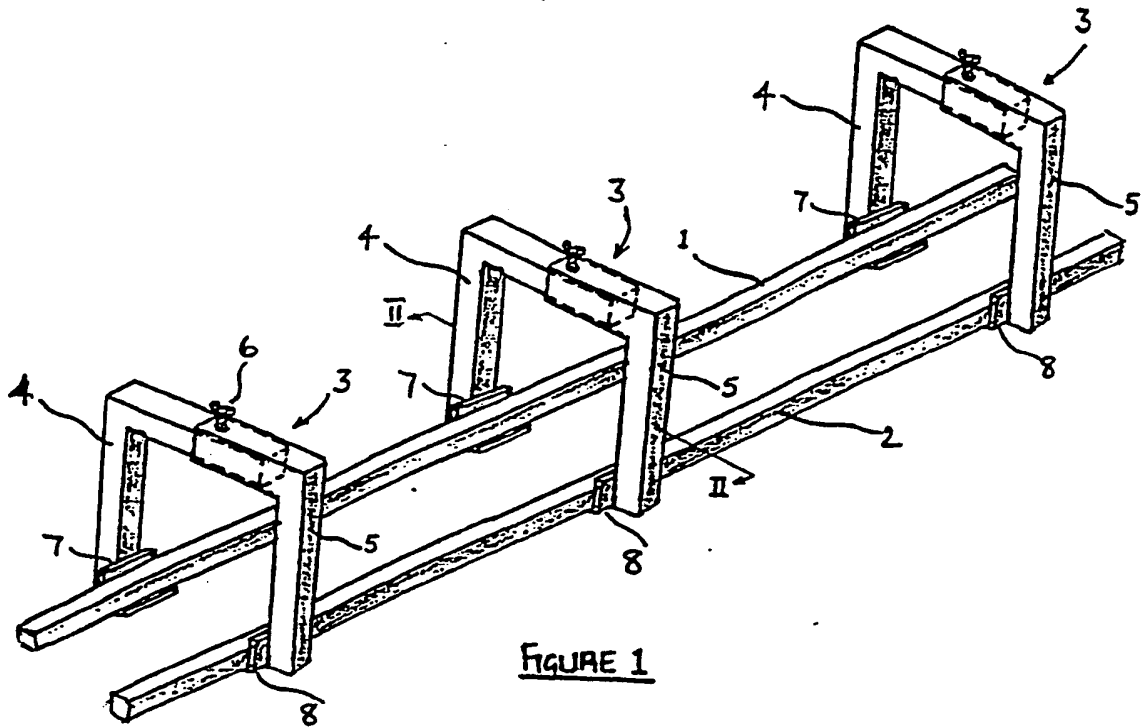


FIGURE 1

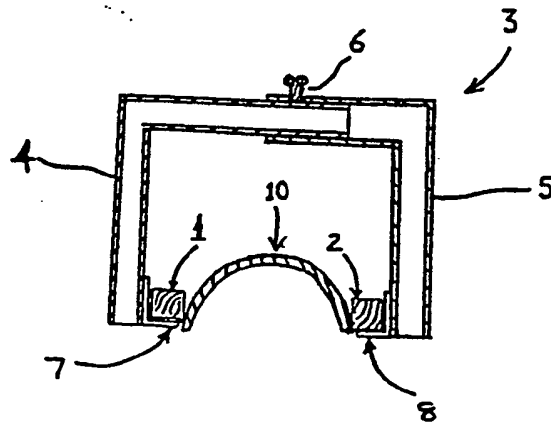


FIGURE 2

RIDGE TILE GUIDE

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a ridge tile guide the primary function of which is to assist the roof builder in maintaining the ridge or hip tiles of a roof in longitudinal alignment when they are being lain.

Background to the Invention

10 One of the most demanding and skilled tasks performed by roofing contractors which has a profound effect upon the appearance of the completed roof is the laying of the ridge and hip tiles of the roof uniformly such that each tile of the ridge or hip is longitudinally aligned and level with the others.

Conventionally the roofer will judge the positioning of each tile by eye. Such an approach is, however, inherently subject to individual fallibility in judgement.

15 In some circumstances roofers have used guide markers or tile fixing means to indicate broadly where each tile should be positioned but these are generally either unreliable or themselves difficult to install and un reusable and incapable of adjustment or readjustment for different sizes of ridge or hip tile.

20 It is a general objective of the present invention to provide a ridge tile guide and method of use thereof to overcome the aforementioned problems in

laying of ridge and hip tiles.

Summary of the Invention

5 According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a ridge tile guide which comprises a pair of mutually parallel guide rails linked by one or more bridging connectors shaped to arch over a line of ridge tiles or hip tiles which are positioned between the guide rails, in use, the bridging connector being adjustable to adjust the width separation between the opposing guide rails to suite the required tile width.

10 Preferably the bridging connector comprises a first and a second member which are adapted to telescope together.

Suitably each guide rail comprises a wooden batten.

The guide suitably comprises three bridging connectors which are mounted, in use, to the guide rails broadly spaced apart there along.

15 According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a component of the ridge tile guide which comprises a said bridging connector having at each opposing remote end thereof an inwardly projecting flange against which one of said guide rails is to be fixed, in use.

According to a third aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of laying ridge or hip tiles in place which comprises the steps of:

20 Providing a ridge tile guide of the first aspect of the invention and placing at least one, and preferably two or more, ridge or hip tiles between the guide rails of the guide and adjusting the bridging connector to press the guide rails against the respective opposing sides of the ridge/hip tile; separating the guide from the said one or more tiles ensuring that the bridging connector(s)
25 are locked in the adjusted state; placing the guide on a hip or ridge of a roof; laying the ridge tiles on the ridge such that they lie between the guide rails of the guide; and subsequently removing the guide.

Preferably the guide is placed upon the ridge/hip of the roof before laying the tiles upon the ridge/hip.

Suitably two or more guides may be used simultaneously to enable rapid laying of the ridge or hip.

- 5 Advantageously the guide is of the order of 5 metres in length for optimum efficiency and ease of use.

Brief Description of the Drawings

- 10 A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be more particularly described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is an isometric view of the guide from above and to one side; and

Figure 2 is a sectional view through the guide taken along the line ii-ii in figure 1 and also illustrating a ridge tile in position within the guide.

Description of the Preferred Embodiment

- 15 Referring to figures 1 and 2, the guide comprises a pair of guide rails 1,2 which suitably comprise wooden battens. These guide rails 1,2 are held apart mutually parallel by means of a set of three bridging connectors 3 each of which comprises a pair of hollow rigid metal box section structural members 4,5 each of which is a rigid tubular box section metal component having an L-shaped form. The two members matingly engage by sliding insertion of an
- 20 end of one of the members 4 within a corresponding end of the other member 5. The end of the member 4 within the member 5 is closely accommodated and rigidly held when secured in place by a bolt 6 such that the bridging connector 3 forms a rigid structural member of the guide, in use.
- 25 The bolt 6 provides a means of selectively securing the bridging connector members 4 and 5 together at a range of adjustable positions of telescoping

together and apart of the two members 4,5. This has the effect of providing adjustability of the distance separating the opposing parallel guide rails 1,2 which are fastened to the respective remote ends of the bridging connector 3.

5 A particularly convenient way of securing the guide rails 1,2 to the remote ends of the bridging connector 3 is to nail the wooden battens forming the guide rails 1,2 into respective brackets 7,8 mounted to the respective said remote ends of the bridging connector 3.

10 Each of the brackets 7,8 is suitably formed as an angle-iron having an inwardly extending flange to support the batten 1,2 uniformly in the desired orientation such that the opposing guide rails 1,2 are maintained in parallel configuration and level with each other.

15 To use the guide the roof layer simply adjusts the separation of the guide rails 1,2 of the guide to accommodate for the width of the desired ridge or hip tiles to be lain. To this end he simply places one, two or preferably three ridge/hip tiles 10 between the guide rails 1,2 at intervals therealong. He then adjusts the bridging connectors 3 to draw the guide rails 1,2 into contact with the sides of the ridge/hip tiles 10 so that the guide rails 1,2 are uniformly separated by a distance closely corresponding to the width of the ridge/hip tile 10 to be lain upon the roof.

20 Once suitably adjusted the guide may be separated from the tiles used to standardize it and transferred to the ridge or hip upon which work is to commence. The guide is suitably mounted in place over the ridge or hip and lined adjacent the guide rails 1,2 with the cement to bed the ridge/hip tiles 10 in place. The ridge/hip tiles 10 may then simply be positioned between the
25 guide rails 1,2 substantially in end to end abutment.

The guide rails 1,2 will serve the function not only of keeping the tiles 10 in alignment but also absorb excess water from the setting cement to facilitate the setting process and will restrict seepage of the cement from the tile joints.

For the majority of purposes the guide is suitably of the order of 4.8 metres in

length for each of handling and efficiency of use. This may generally allow up to 16 ridge tiles to be lain within a single guide. This may be sufficient to complete many hips. For many roof ridges, however, several guides may be used in tandem.

5 In addition to facilitating alignment of the ridge/hip tiles, the guide is also of use in ensuring alignment of dentals which are used to support ridge/hip tiles on roofs of pantiles or other arcuately formed tiles. The dentals may be bedded in cement beneath the guide rails 1,2 with their outer edges substantially flush with the outer faces of the rails 1,2 thereby ensuring their
10 alignment.

A further useful rôle which the guide may perform is to serve as an anchor for holding a weather protection covering in place over the ridge tiles and surrounding tiles to allow the cement to set.

15 The numerous advantages and benefits of the present invention may be enjoyed through a wide range of alternative embodiments of the invention.

Amongst numerous other conceivable embodiments, the guide rails 1,2 need not be detachably fastened to the bridging connectors 3 but may be integrally formed or securely fixed thereto and may be collapsible, comprising sections which telescope or which hinge about each other. This latter option may
20 have the benefit of enabling the guide to be adjusted for different lengths of ridge avoiding the need for provision of multiple guides to be used in tandem.

For practical purposes, however, the guide as described in the preferred embodiment above proves wholly satisfactory to the practitioner.

Claims

1. A ridge tile guide which comprises a pair of mutually parallel guide rails linked by one or more bridging connectors shaped to arch over a line of ridge tiles or hip tiles which are positioned between the guide rails, in use, the bridging connector being adjustable to adjust the width separation between the opposing guide rails to suit the required tile width.
2. A bridging connector as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the connector comprises a first and a second member which are adapted to telescope together.
3. A ridge tile guide as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein each guide rail comprises a wooden batten.
4. A ridge tile guide as claimed in any preceding Claim, wherein the guide comprises three bridging connectors which are mounted, in use, to the guide rails broadly spaced apart there along.
5. A component of the ridge tile guide of any of Claims 1 to 4, which component comprises a said bridging connector having at each opposing remote end thereof an inwardly projecting flange against which one of said guide rails is to be fixed, in use.
6. A method of laying ridge or hip tiles in place which comprises the steps of:
 - providing a ridge tile guide as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 5 and placing at least one, and preferably two or more, ridge or hip tiles between the guide rails of the guide and adjusting the bridging connector to press the guide rails against the respective opposing sides of the ridge/hip; separating the guide from the said one or more tiles while ensuring that the bridging connector(s) are locked in the adjusted state; closing the guide on a hip or a ridge of a roof; laying the ridge tiles on the ridge such that they lie between

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the guide rails of the guide; and subsequently removing the guide.

7. A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the guide is placed upon the ridge/hip of the roof before laying the tiles upon the ridge/hip.

5 8. A method as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein two or more guides are used simultaneously.

9. A ridge tile guide substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Relevant Technical Fields	Search Examiner MR D LOVELL
(i) UK Cl (Ed.M) E1S (SAB, SAD, SAF, SAG, SAV, SSB, SSCA, SSG)	Date of completion of Search 16 NOVEMBER 1994
(ii) Int Cl (Ed.5) E04D, E04G	Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :- 1 TO 4, 6 TO 9
Databases (see below) (i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.	
(ii) ON-LINE DATABASE - DERWENT WPI	

Categories of documents

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Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category.	E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.	&: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB 2218450 A (SHAFTO)	
A	GB 2003214 A (WILCZYNSKI)	

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